

CLAIMS

1. An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
2. An isolated polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 in which the amino acid sequence has at least 95% identity to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
3. The polypeptide as claimed in claim 1 comprising the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
4. An isolated polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
5. An immunogenic fragment of the polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 in which the immunogenic activity of said immunogenic fragment is substantially the same as the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4.
6. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,4 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:2,4; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.
7. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence that has at least 85% identity to a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2,4 over the entire coding region; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.

8. An isolated polynucleotide which comprises a nucleotide sequence which has at least 85% identity to that of SEQ ID NO:1,3 over the entire length of SEQ ID NO:1,3 respectively; or a nucleotide sequence complementary to said isolated polynucleotide.
- 5 9. The isolated polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 6 to 8 in which the identity is at least 95% to SEQ ID NO:1,3.
- 10 10. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
11. An isolated polynucleotide comprising the polynucleotide of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3.
12. An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4, obtainable by screening an appropriate library under stringent hybridization conditions with a labeled probe having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 and SEQ ID NO:3 or a fragment thereof.
13. An expression vector or a recombinant live microorganism comprising an isolated polynucleotide according to any one of claims 6 - 12.
14. A host cell comprising the expression vector of claim 13 or a subcellular fraction or a membrane of said host cell expressing an isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of: SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4.
15. A process for producing a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that has at least 85% identity to the amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2 and SEQ ID NO:4 comprising culturing a host cell of claim 14 under conditions

sufficient for the production of said polypeptide and recovering the polypeptide from the culture medium.

- 5 16. A process for expressing a polynucleotide of any one of claims 6 - 12 comprising transforming a host cell with the expression vector comprising at least one of said polynucleotides and culturing said host cell under conditions sufficient for expression of any one of said polynucleotides.
- 10 17. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polypeptide of any one of claims 1 to 5 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
18. A vaccine composition comprising an effective amount of the polynucleotide of any one of claims 6 to 12 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.
- 15 19. The vaccine composition according to either one of claims 17 or 18 wherein said composition comprises at least one other *Neisseria meningitidis* antigen.
- 20 20. An antibody immunospecific for the polypeptide or immunological fragment as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5.
- 25 21. A method of diagnosing a *Neisseria meningitidis* infection, comprising identifying a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 5, or an antibody that is immunospecific for said polypeptide, present within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection.
22. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polypeptide as claimed in any one of claims 1 - 5 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

23. Use of a composition comprising an immunologically effective amount of a polynucleotide as claimed in any one of claims 6 - 12 in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.
- 5 24. A therapeutic composition useful in treating humans with *Neisseria meningitidis* disease comprising at least one antibody directed against the polypeptide of claims 1 - 5 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

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